

# THE BELL RINGER



VOLUME 50 NUMBER 7

MONTGOMERY BELL ACADEMY

JUNE 1, 1995

## Students' Voice Enhanced with New Advisory Board

About to embark on the school's five year plan, the MBA administration has created a thirteen member Student Advisory Board. The group's main goal is to voice students' concerns and opinions in regard to potential changes in every aspect of MBA life. These students attended a preliminary meeting in April in order to create a final list to be presented to the administration on May 31.

The committee focused on a broad range of issues ranging from student government to the growing concern that MBA is increasingly placing a stronger emphasis on athletics. Very high on the students' list will be the demand for security in the parking lots. After two years of automobile break-ins, the student body is demanding more security. At the same time, the committee does not want MBA to appear like a prison or an "elitist" school with the addition of gates or cameras. Several committee members thought that the only solution would be a tastefully done parking garage.

The council also is

focusing on MBA's future financial and development plans. One senior member suggested expanding the school's financial aid program. Not expecting this financial advice to be heavily considered by the administration, the

council intends to focus on less controversial subjects like the student meal card. With a meal card, each student can pay a fixed amount of money either ahead of time or pay afterwards without having to worry about the day to day lunchtime expenses. This would also decrease the daily hassle of the cashiers and increase the efficiency and speed of the cafeteria.

The council also is looking at reform in Student

by Jim Rich and Stephen Wall government. Tired of the student council's inactivity, the council is deciding on whether to disband it completely or to join them with the class officers, who the council feel are not doing enough to earn their titles. As put wisely by one

and Oak Hill. Also, the council wants to put a cap on the size of each class at around 100 students. Many members feel that this stricter admittance and this cap would increase the competition while freeing up spaces for more

deserving students throughout Nashville. This stricter admittance would also apply to the faculty as well. Several members on the committee felt that some teaching vacancies are being filled by coaches, not teachers. One member noted that in MBA's motto "scholar comes before athlete."

In the academic area, the committee is going to introduce to the administration

the idea of offering a broader range of college-prep courses, such as philosophy, political science, etc. Some mentioned that some requirements have outgrown their usefulness, such as the Latin requirement. Remember students, none of these suggestions have been put into place, so don't get your hopes up! The committee also wanted to have the athletic requirements to be taken more seriously for those people who don't participate in sports. One solution to this is to offer more choices of intramurals, and not just weights and running. Several committee members also thought that some sports were too highly emphasized, while others were ignored (lacrosse, wrestling, swimming). Other ideas are also being discussed on this committee which would take several more pages to discuss, but these ideas represent the way in which this student committee feels MBA can improve and keep up with the times.



Seniors recall their prenatal heritage: The Seventies

council member "Four people doing nothing is better than eight." How true.

The make-up of the student body is also being discussed. The committee has presented the idea of stricter admittance standards on such feeder schools as Ensworth

committee felt that some teaching vacancies are being filled by coaches, not teachers. One member noted that in MBA's motto "scholar comes before athlete."

In the academic area, the committee is going to introduce to the administration

## Nationals Tops of Another Successful Debate Year

by Ben Purser

This year, the team has acquired two new coaches, Rénard François for Lincoln-Douglas and Gordon Hull for policy. Rénard François, who's an MBA alumnus, has just graduated from Penn and is taking this year to help us with debate and prepare himself for law school. (He's attending George Washington.) Gordon Hall, who used to debate at Wake Forest, is a philosophy graduate student at Vanderbilt, and helps both the policy and L-D divisions.

So far this year, a few members of the MBA debate team have attended local tournaments: Clarksville Northeast, and Austin Peay. Sending only two Lincoln-Douglas debaters to Clarksville NE was all that was necessary for Ben-

jamin Purser to win first place and Michael Martin to get second place (contrary to announcements in assembly). Austin Peay went about the same way: Mark Roden and Tyson Tune were the only Varsity L-D'ers sent, and they won first and second, respectively. Our novice policy team composed of

Nathan Sabel and Robert Ross made it to Semi-Finals in the

overall. Although the new year started off with the Southern Bell Forum, we only helped run the tournament (we cannot participate in our own tournament). The first tournament that any of us attended was the University of Alabama.



MBA's National Qualifiers

Varsity Policy division, with Ross ranked fifth speaker

Michael Risen and Brian Stults made it to semifinals in var-

sity policy - with Michael earning third speaker. We closed out novice policy. Two weeks later, several travelled down to Birmingham to compete in the Sanford tournament. Mike Risen and Brian Stults won the varsity policy division. Michael got third speaker. Rob Humbrack and Nathan Sabel made it to semifinals in novice policy. Deji Okediji and Tyson Tune both

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## News and Opinions

## The Failures of Affirmative Action

by Chris Allen and Mark Pettus

As debate about the impending 1996 elections heats up, many political commentators have predicted that affirmative action will emerge as one of the most divisive issues. The backlash against the quotas, racial categorizing, and political correctness that affirmative action represents has been building up for years, and is now being fueled not only by the white majority, for obvious reasons, but also by many minority leaders, who have had their fill of being patronized by people who are convinced that blacks and other minorities require special assistance in order to achieve any success in life.

Affirmative action manifests itself in many different ways in the workplace, from specific racial hiring quotas, requiring companies to hire certain percentages of minorities, to application tampering, where employees are all given certain tests to determine their abilities, and when the final scoring is done, several points are added to minorities' test scores for no rea-

son other than the fact that they are a minority, and therefore presumably need extra assistance. During the civil rights and women's movements, it seemed clear that some measures were necessary to integrate minorities and women into the workplace, but times change, and today people are realizing that affirmative action was self-defeating from the very beginning. Instead of integrating minorities successfully, it has only widened racial divisions because it attempted to end discrimination by discriminating.

This blatant contradiction suffices to discount affirmative action soundly and decisively, but let's look in depth at how it affects both whites and minorities in the workplace. Whites are hurt for obvious reasons, since minorities are given unfair assistance in getting hired. The effects on minorities are more complex. Imagine you are an intelligent black woman who gets a great job right out of college in a company that happens to be mostly white. The

boss hires you because he likes your work attitude, your past record, and your personality, and his decision has nothing to do with race. Despite trying to reassure yourself, it will be difficult to shake that nagging feeling that maybe you were hired not for your performance, but just to fill some racial quota. How do the other employees see you? Are they eager to work with a great new addition to the company, or do they resentfully view you as the token minority? Here is another problem with affirmative action: it encourages racial scapegoating, since whites who don't get a job may blame their own misfortune on other races whom they claim are less qualified, but were hired to meet a percentage. Minorities who are hired under such circumstances will find it difficult to take pride in their accomplishment, and may lose much of their self-respect and confidence in their abilities. It isn't difficult for us, as students, to relate to this racial categorizing. How many of you felt insulted

when, taking your achievement tests, you had to fill out the "race" question? Weren't you a little suspicious about how this information would be used for or against you, if it was used at all? How many of you replied "I prefer not to answer?" Imagine this doubt magnified tenfold when your response to the race question on an application may determine whether or not you get the big job.

Not only does affirmative action damage workplace relations, but it also interferes with an owner's rights to run his business for profit. Assuming that the vast majority of successful employers aren't KKK members or skinheads, and that all of them are motivated by profit, we can safely say that they are going to hire whomever they feel will help their business the most, regardless of race. They are not going to hire a white guy who drools during his job interview and responds to every question with "duh....," nor are they going to hire a minority just to be "po-

litically correct" if a more qualified white applicant wants the job. If the owner were left to his own judgment, which, if he is a shrewd businessman, would be to hire whomever would help his business the most and thus earn him the most money, any racial injustices caused by affirmative action would be ironed out. Someone who makes impractical hiring decisions, whether they are based on racial prejudice or not, will pay the price when his business fails. Anyone who has worked hard to build a business resents the federal government telling him whom to hire instead of allowing him to make his own decisions about who is best for his company. (Our apologies to the feminists—we used the male personal pronoun to refer to business owners just to avoid writing "his or her" ten times. We realize that women can own businesses.)

It is especially informative to examine which groups constitute the opposition. Please see, Action, page 3

## Debate. . . from page 1

made it to octo-finals in varsity L-D.

Only our top debaters travelled to the Barkley Forum. Although Benjamin Purser and Mark Roden did not break in L-D, they both had winning records. The same was true for Eric Womack and Bill Wilson in policy. Praveen Kambam and Clay Risen, however, made it to octo-finals in policy.

The National Qualifiers were then held at BGA, where only four teams/people from both policy and L-D were allowed to compete. In policy, we swept: Clay Risen & Praveen Kambam and Bill Wilson & Eric Womack earned the two spots to go to Nationals, with Jack Trout & T. Eddie Sisk acquired the "Alternate" position. We did almost as well in L-D: all four of our debaters survived several levels of elimination rounds; unfortunately, Deji and Tyson both got eliminated

in the sixth round, and Benjamin was one vote short of being the second place; so, Mark Roden was first, and Benjamin Purser earned the "Alternate" slot.

The whole team then returned to Alabama to debate at the Vestavia Hills tournament. Mark Roden made it to octo-finals and Benjamin Purser made it to semifinals in varsity L-D. In varsity policy, Michael Risen & Bill Wilson, and Clay Risen and Praveen Kambam closed out finals. T. Eddie and Jack got to quarters. In novice policy, Nathan Sabel & Mark Yopp made it to semifinals. Wilson and Josh Hildreth made it to octo's; and Robert Humbracht and Robert "Hoss" Ross made it to quarters.

The novices then travelled down to the "Woodward Invitational Debates" in Atlanta, which some claim to be the "Novice Nationals." Regardless of what

it's called, Nathan Sabel and Josh Hildreth won it. In J-V policy, Michael Risen and Brian Stults made it to quarters, with Jack Trout earning sixth speaker.

The last tournament of the year was the Tournament of Champions, at the University of Kentucky. For a debater to attend this tournament, he, or he and his partner - for policy, had to earn two "Qualifiers" by reaching certain elimination rounds at various nationally ranked tournaments. We were lucky enough to send eight people: Clay Risen & Praveen Kambam, Eric Womack & Bill Wilson, Mike Risen & Bryan Stults, and Mark Roden and Benjamin Purser. Of these five debaters/teams, none broke - but three had winning records (Clay & Praveen, Bill & Eric, and Benjamin). Unfortunately, the policy teams would have done much better, had a sudden change occurred in the President's agendas, making

a lot of their work obsolete.

All in all, it has been a good year for our team. Although we'll lose our main L-D coach, Mr. François, we'll gain an excellent policy coach - Mr. Coverstone. His addition will more than balance out the loss of five strong seniors.

**C**  
**CARDEN**  
**COMPANY**

GARY CARDEN

Views expressed are the writers' opinions; decide for yourself.

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## MBA's Class Elections for the 1995-96 School Year

by John Lyell, Safa Homayoon, and Rob Humbracht

The Junior Year elections were filled with repeat winners. As far as officers go, 4 people ran for 4 positions. In the end, T. Eddie Sisk was our president, again. Jon Gaston won our vice presidency, and Daniel McGugin and Rob Hancock tied for secretary and treasurer. After Daniel McGugin forfeited the higher position, Rob Hancock ended up with the secretary's position. In Student Council, Brent Osborn was elected president, while Corbett Gibson became vice president. James Gunn became secretary, and Bill McGugin was named treasurer. In the Honor Council's heated elections, Will Parsons and John Gunn were elected president and vice president, respectively. Titus Thomas became Honor Council secretary. Akinori Hashimura was elected Treasurer after imitating Forrest Gump in his speech.

This year's sophomore class election proved to be a very interesting one. For the top spot, it came down to Robert "Hoss" Ross and last

year's president, Will Bartholomew. Robert, after obtaining his petition during the seventh period of the day of the election, and after completing the last three slots at the meeting, gave his speech. With his "conservative" values having been mentioned, he insulted Will's genealogy as well as the way he had managed the class the past few years. In retort, Will came back with some keen litotes, he noted that he didn't even have to say anything about Robert, "Just look at him." This brought cheer and jeers from the crowd; however, winning the presidency, Will got the last laugh, whereas Robert got the vice-presidency. The honor council race was more complex with seven people running. The incumbents, Brew Davis and Will Confelly, retained their seats, and the third nod went to Jake Beasley. Surprisingly no one ran for treasurer, but a few ran for secretary. On a sympathetic note, Russel Taber, with his crutches and all, gave his speech as sighs of "Aw" went

over the crowd. He won. Chad Grief was elected treasurer. Quite a few people ran for student council, and yearly member, John Buchanan, was reelected. The other seats were won by Paul Russell, Hanley Sayers, and Mark Yopp, who probably won for his speech, "I have no speech."

Freshmen class elections were held on May 4 and May 11. Grant Dickson and Sam O'Connell were elected class president and vice-president, respectively. Yasunori Hashimura was elected secretary while Barry Grimstad was elected treasurer. Joey Crace and Whit Smith ran but fell through the ranks without a sufficient number of votes for a place among the officers. The four candidates for student council, Michael Martin, Michael Higgins, Michael Griffin, and Wilson Vorndick, won by default for the four seats granted to the freshman class. The Honor council elections were a repeat of this fall's selections, with Mark Burish and Andy Dale becoming the representatives. The losing

candidates were Blake Sloan, Robert Sawyer, and Michael Stahl, who was absent on that day and unable to give a speech.

The elections process is one that allows for many discrepancies. Students voting in the elections list their choices in the order of their preference. The ballots, after being collected, are arranged in order of first place votes. The candidate with the least amount of first place votes is eliminated. Depending on the amount of candidates running, this process extends through second, third, and possibly fourth of fifth place votes until one candidate is selected. Inconsistencies can occur in the fact that the candidate who is eliminated does not even get a chance to have his following place votes recognized. However, this method worked well for the elections this year, for it is accurate most of the time and is by far the easiest method of tallying votes.

## Nobody Knows Very Much About Any Thing

by  
Clay  
Risen

The ability and freedom to question one's beliefs constructively and advance because of such questioning is one of human kind's most invaluable tools. In another light, Emerson said that "Unjustified adherence to continuity is the hobgoblin of little minds." It is ironic then that the very institution we entrust to protect our freedoms, the Armed Services, fails miserably to clear the low hurdles of tradition, fear, and blind "machismo." While the integration of African-Americans and women into the Armed Services has had no perceptible impact on morale or unit cohesion, the military continues to prohibit openly gay and lesbian individuals from participation.

If an individual totally unaccustomed to American society came to the US and heard about the "Ban," he or she would laugh and simply ask "Why?!" So should we, as citizens. Studies of every other major military force in the Western world (which have all integrated gays and lesbians) show no impact on performance, morale, or national defense (RAND Corporation, 1993). This same can be said for domestic police and fire departments, which actively recruit homosexual candidates. The best evidence, however, is empirical. Opposition to the integration of African-American and female soldiers was strong initially, but soon gave way to acceptance. Former Senator Barry Goldwater stated in 1993 that, "Military leaders at the time believed that blacks lacked leadership potential. Now each and every man and woman takes orders from a black man—our

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## Action. . . from page 2

tion to revoking affirmative action. The two most vocal organizations are NOWW (National Organization for Whining Women) and the NAALCP (National Association for the Advancement of Liberal Colored Peoples). Ask yourself: why do these groups oppose a color blind hiring system that is fair to both sexes? The answer is simple. These groups want to do anything possible to spread hate and division between the races and sexes, because if we lived in a society free of discrimination, their existence would be in jeopardy. The more blacks and women that feel oppressed, the more donations these groups are likely to receive. The NAACP hypocritically stresses the equality and even superiority of blacks, while at the same time declaring that, if left to their own devices, blacks cannot succeed, and NOW does the same for women. It will be interesting to watch Bill Clinton

waffle on yet another issue, eager not to offend his ultra-liberal supporters, while trying desperately not to alienate himself from mainstream voters even more by supporting affirmative action. He currently has a "committee" that, after examining the issue, will tell him what his opinion should be.

There is a vast difference between remembering the past and dwelling on it. There can be no doubt that past injustices due to color or sex are unacceptable in a civilized society. However, the time has come to put a stop, once and for all, to special privileges obtained solely by one's race or sex. Success in today's workplace should be based on one thing only: education. Acquiring the skills and knowledge necessary for achievement requires personal responsibility and self respect, both of which are weakened by affirmative action.

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## EQUUS: The Chess Set's Horse

by Beau Tidwell

Well, the Civil War Chess Set has concluded its 1994-95 season on a high note with Peter Schaffer's "Equus." A moody, stirring work dealing with the causes and ramifications of a boy's apparently purposeless blinding of six horses.

A strange as that may sound, and as difficult as it may be to explain, "Equus" was a stunning, bewildering psycho-drama which left the audience reeling with doubts and questions about both their society and their psyche.

Bill Siesser plays the starring role of Dr. Dysart, the psychiatrist engage to solve Alan's mysteries. Alan, portrayed by Paul Thompson, is the disturbed boy who committed the heinous crimes. The synergy and intensity of these two actors are amazing.

After three years as the core of the MBA theater productions, Paul and Bill finished their high school career with their greatest work yet. Steven Hunt was another long time member ending his stint with the Big Red drama club in "Equus." Taking on an un-

conventional role for him - a conservative, almost paranoid, father figure - Steve finished his MBA career with an impressive showing.

Surrounded by controversy from the beginning, Shaffer's "Equus" deals with themes from sexuality, nor-

mality, isolation, teenage psychosis, decide, and even religious sacrifice on a mature, all-be-it disturbing level. The most intense moments of the production feature Siesser delivering his monologues which question the ideals of both the audience and the character -

terrifying torrent of emotion, is given vivid reality by Paul and Rob - whose eerie performance leaves the audience virtually gasping, and eventually relaxing muscles they

together for one final chilling performance, director Bart Whitman turned out a fantastic show. With two of the "Terrific Three" graduating next year, the Drama Club

faces a season of serious rebuilding. Historically senior-heavy, the Civil War Chess Set (some day the world will learn what that means) will have only two returning seniors next year. "Equus" then, ends with the swan song



didn't even know were tense.

Ultimately, "Equus" was the triumph of the 94-95 season. Bringing the two biggest starts of the last few years

of an era for MBA theater. A phenomenal production, "Equus" leaves the audience with a disturbing, shattering show.

### The Most Controversial Performers

by Matt Reasor

10. **Sex Pistols**- When you gotta go, you gotta go! This fine group was banned from Nashville's own Municipal Auditorium because during previous concerts, Johnny Rotten urinated on a member of their audience.

9. **Red Hot Chili Peppers**- Anthony Keidis and Flea pulled a female fan on stage; stripped her and made her dance.

8. **Rick James**- Kidnapped a young lady and repeatedly burned her with a crack pipe. His manager said that this was the second biggest peak in his

career since the release of "Super Freak".

7. **Guns n' Roses**- During the 1990 Grammy Awards, GNR's guitarist Slash uttered, "This is \_\_\_\_\_ Awesome." The next day my 6th grade class had a meeting held by the computer teacher so she could announce that Guns n' Roses are the instigators of the "devil's music."

6. **Ozzy Osbourne**- The rumors flew after Ozzy bit the head off of a dove during an album release press conference. So he had the munchies and was craving some poul-

try, what's the big deal?

5. **Chuck Berry**- This guitar legend was arrested for placing video cameras in the ladies bathroom of his night club. Rank!

4. **La Toya Jackson**- Hey, is that a boa constrictor around your neck or are you just another Jackson Family Freak? La Toya posed in *Playboy* a few years back with nothing on except her pet boa.

3. **James Brown**- I can't remember what he went to jail for, but his title in the slammer was "The GodFather of Soul Pole."

2. **Courtney Love**- Yoko, I mean Courtney, I mean Yoko, get a job! You have too much time on your hands! Go to Cheekwood and join a pottery class or something!

1. **Michael Jackson**- "Hey Mom, last night at Michael's slumber party he showed us his tatoos!" 'Nuff said.

MICHAEL Renee  
LIFESTYLE PORTRAITURE

SALUTES



WILL COLES

Will is captain of the varsity basketball team, an officer in the service club, and he will be attending Furman next year where he will continue his basketball prowess.

Private Edition

Linda D. Roberts  
President



## Your Baseball Predictions for 1995

by John Lyell and Jamie Pfeffer

As the belated 1995 season opens, we feel that we should inform everyone on how the season will turn out. Barring a strike or another tiff, we will see an extra round of playoffs. We know that the Phillies, led by Gregg Jeffries and their stellar offense, will win the NL wild card race. After a close pennant race, the Giants will out slug the young Rockies to win the NL West. Although both teams are pitiful in the pitching department, the experienced Giants will pull away down the stretch. In the Central, due to personal bias, the Cardinals receive our nod as divisional champion, but they will have tough competition from the Barry Larkin-led Reds. Once again, much to our dismay, the Braves will destroy the competition in the East. This team, composed of award contending Fred McGriff, Dave Justice, and Greg Maddux, will win the National League title, which will please the fair-weather

Braves fans with their stupid tomahawk chop.

In the American League, the Rangers will win the pathetic AL West, although they will have an above .500 winning percentage. In the Central, the Indians will finally break the decades of misfortune and win the pennant. The high octane offense of the Indians, including the stolen base champ Kenny Lofton and the powerful Albert Belle, will be tough to stop. The Frank Thomas-powered White Sox will take the wild card spot, though the Orioles will give them a run for their money. Coming out of the toughest division in baseball, the AL East, the Yankees, led by a World Series hungry Don Mattingly, will not only win the AL, but the World Series as well.

We felt that we should also inform everyone on the individual award winners. Look for some repeats in the NL with Barry Bonds tak-

ing the MVP and Greg Maddux winning the Cy Young award. Again based on personal bias, we feel Ozzie Smith should win the Comeback Player of the Year (and anything else we feel like giving him), but Robby Thompson will be a strong candidate, depending on if he gets the proper recognition. In the AL, the Central Champion will send their top slugger to the top of the MVP balloting, whether it be Albert Belle or Frank Thomas. For our first disagreement, the Cy Young Award will go to the Yankees' Jimmy Key or the Mariners' Randy Johnson. In the Comeback race, Mark McGwire will easily take the award. That is the baseball future.

MICHAEL *Renee'*  
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Ted is editor-in-chief of *The BellRinger*

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## Know... from page 3

own General Colin Powell." Similarly, the success of the Gulf War disproves the opposition to large scale integration of women into the armed forces.

What is the objection to homosexual integration? It is stipulated that troop morale and cohesion would be destroyed if the soldiers knew that one of their comrades were a gay or lesbian individual. But this ignores a fundamental difference—that between unit and task cohesion. Unit cohesion deals with the day-to-day social aspects of the soldiers' relationships, while task cohesion deals with the battlefield operations. Two people may not get along socially, but when placed against a common enemy in a life or death situation, the will to survive and conquer overpowers such prejudices (RAND Corporation, 1993).

Thus the "National Defense" objection to integration becomes irrelevant.

Beyond simple justifications against the ban, the very notion of preventing communication between antagonistic groups is suspect. As the *Journal of the American Psychologist* wrote in 1989, "Prejudice is decreased by bringing the prejudiced and prejudiced against groups together and putting them in a situation where each group can learn more about the other and the two can develop lasting relationships. Conversely, barriers to communication and contact, such as that created by the army regulations at the same issue in this case, tend to exacerbate intergroup hostility." Of course lifting the "Ban" would present problems, but adaptation is proven to work and be beneficial. And at the bottom line is the ques-

tion: Why is it important at all to defend freedom if in the process we use our institutions to oppress a suspect minority?

This is not merely a moral action the Armed Services needs to take; as an enormous part of our government, the Armed Services does and can have a major impact on the public's mindset at large. Openly ending the "Ban" will force us all to ask ourselves about our own prejudices and why it is that someone is less of a person merely because of their skin color, their sexual orientation or gender, or their social class. Simply start by asking "WHY?"

## MBA's Domination of Spring Sports Continues in '95

by Hayns Gentry

As students returned after Spring Break to a campus that seemed like a foreign country after only a one week layoff, and the days and practices stretched longer into the afternoon, there is one thing that remained familiar: the dominating spring sports MBA always has. Of the five major teams that have their season during the spring, all have made the state tournaments in recent years in their respective sports and even more impressively, two have won state titles and one was runner-up. This year proved to be no different.

The accomplishments of past MBA Tennis teams speak for themselves, and this year's team knew they were going to add to the list of MBA tennis records. Team senior captain Randy Howell said, "This is one of the most dominant MBA teams ever, which alone is impressive. The experience we have is what gives us a very legitimate chance at an undefeated season and hopefully a state championship." The fact that the team is strong down to its last player is amazing, and only a testament to the strength and depth of the team. Throughout the season the Tennis team has mowed down top opponents such as Brentwood High 8-1, Memphis University School 7-0, Baylor 7-2, and McCallie 5-1, proving that undoubtedly MBA is the number one team in the state going into the state tournament. The A and B teams as a whole for the entire year going into the state tournament have composed an impressive match record of 263 wins to only 30 defeats.

Equally as successful is the Baseball team which won the state tournament the year before last; and this senior class is making its third appearance in the state tournament in the last four years. It is no secret this team has

incredible potential under the leadership of senior aces Steven Bess, Franklin Jarman, and Dave Sifford. The goal of the team stated by Bess is that "if we achieve anything less than the state tournament, it will come as a disappointment." Immediately the team came back into form despite ending last year on a low note. In the first four games there were four home runs by Bess, Ted Morrissey, Matt Garrett, and Anderson Williams. In addition, Bess recorded thirteen strike outs in his season opener in front of seventeen

"the team is composed of more youth, depth, and number of players. All of which have combined to make a team that is not composed of as many superstars, but has more desire and teamwork," as senior David Brooks said. Under the leadership of All-American Kirk Howell, as well as seniors Eric Anderson and David Brooks the team was once again aimed at a fifth consecutive state title, but unfortunately had to settle for second place state finish. It was not the perfect outcome, but only because of the huge

Ryan, and then by "coming out ready and destroying DCA 5-0, a game in which we scored in the first :52 seconds" as Welhoelter put it.

The Track team is certainly no different in the magnitude of its accomplishments and potential. The team this year is well-rounded in all areas, which is impressive alone. Despite losing Robert West, Brandon Shea, Taylor Harris, and Joseph Braden, the team has improved on the whole. The goal as senior John Farringer saw it at the start of the season was "to win the

times and distances. The MBA discus team of Bill Englert, Ted Callahan, and Bryan Morgan captured the only first place victory for the Big Red. After individual highlights in the Banner and Optimist, the track team entered the Region meet. In the field events, the pole vaulters Buck Blair, Max Fuller, and John Ozier swept the top three spots. Paul Russell, first, and Aziz Bah, third, also scored important points in the high jump. Bill Englert and Ted Callahan both were finalists in the discus, with Englert receiving fourth

place. Scott Denbo, who had already broken the school record some twenty three times during the season, putted 53'11" in his first place Region victory. After the field events MBA had a thirty point lead over Overton. Strong running provided by Zach Greenwood, Morgan Cordell, Hanley Sayers, Jonathan Fly, John David Daniel, Mark Wycoff, James Gunn, and others prevented MBA's lead from ever "frittering away." Mark Wycoff and James Gunn ran into the third and fourth places in the mile; Zach Greenwood ran the 400 in a time of 49.3, earning him a first place. The 1600 meter relay team received a second place victory. Overall MBA outdistanced runner-up Hillsboro 107 to 71. In the words of Coach Pruitt, "Pending results in the state meet, this may be the most successful MBA track team ever."

The successes in baseball, tennis, track, soccer, and lacrosse are many, with baseball, tennis, and track athletes vying for state championships.



scouts from pro teams. The team raced to the state tournament as predicted while recording a 28-2 record and a number two state ranking, only behind Germantown, the state and nation's number-one ranked high school team. Highlights came for the team in the form of five wins over rival Overton. In the District Championship against Overton, Michael Frey's 4-4 game and William's three run homer sparked a late comeback, and then Jarman's dramatic grand-slam sealed the victory and the Region Championship.

Possibly the most successful of all MBA sports in recent years is the Lacrosse team who are defending state champs. The team this year again proved to be a state power. The difference is that

success of MBA Lacrosse in the past years. Because of the youth of this years team, they are sure to dominate next year.

The '95 MBA Soccer team came off a year that in the player's minds was prematurely ended. This year the senior leadership along with numerous young additions formed a team that "quickly came together" as Benjie Griffith put it. "We are surprisingly strong and better than probably anticipated," Griffith added. The team was led by experienced seniors Rob Welhoelter, who returned to the team after a year off and scored six goals in the first four games, JT Davenport, Porter Langfitt, Corey Morgan, Tom Hall, and Benjie Griffith. The team proved its ability by repeatedly playing tough against national power

Region then the Team State. Two titles we have definite chances at winning." After several weeks of dual meet competition, the Big Red won the Doug Hall Relays. This meet proved to be a talisman for future relay meets. The next week MBA won the Region 3-AAA Team Relays, a feat which sent the team to Team State. Although the team garnered a fourth place win, coaches and runners alike were pleased with improving

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